

Canada's statement on the interactive dialogues

February 4, 2020

- You can count on the support of the Canadian delegation in this task.
- The ocean, seas, and coastal areas are vital to the livelihoods and food security of communities around the world. Achieving SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda is essential to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the planet
- This conference comes at a critical time: while there has been some progress since the first UN Ocean Conference, we are not currently on track to meet the four targets under SDG 14 that come due in 2020. The science is clear. Climate change is the defining issue of our times. Clearly, we must redouble our efforts.
- On all fronts, we need to intensify the global conservation and ensure that it is comprehensive, concrete, results-oriented, inclusive and transparent.
- We hope that the Conference can be used to take stock of the progress we have made over the last five years and catalyze effective solutions to close the gap and achieve SDG 14 and, more broadly, the 2030 Agenda.
- We support the co-coordinators' proposed themes that correspond directly to the targets of SDG 14.
- Given the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs, it is important to consider how efforts to achieve SDG 14 can also be leveraged to achieve positive outcomes across the SDGs. We welcome the proposal for the eighth interactive dialogue theme; at the same time, we would also encourage consideration of relevant SDGs in all of the interactive dialogues.
- In our view, the effectiveness of the interactive dialogues will be significantly increased if they are truly interactive, action oriented, and focused on closing the gap between our ambition in the targets of SDG 14 and today's reality.
- We actively engaged in the first UN Ocean Conference; we look forward to actively participating in the second Conference.